Joint Business Commission to India and Oman

3403. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Oman have agreed to set up a joint business commission to provide a forum for exchange of business information and increased interaction between business representatives of the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) An Agreement was singed on 19th April, 1995 at New Delhi between the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the Associated Chember of Commerce & Industry (ASSOCHAM) from the Indian side, and the Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry to set up a Joint Business Committee (JBC). The JBC aims at fostering friendship and understanding between the business communities of India and Oman, and promoting cooperation in trade investment, technology transfer, service and other industrial sectors between the two countries.

Release of Sugar under free sale Sugar quota by Andhra Pradesh

3404. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW DHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for release of 20,000 tonnes of sugar under free sale quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh in June, 1996 requested for release of an additional freesale quota of 20,000 tonnes of sugar in respect of different units of Nizam sugars Ltd. (State owned company), as a special case.

During the month of June, 1996 apart from the normal quota of 7,40,000 Mts. of freesale sugar, an additional quota of 50,000 M. tonnes was released. In addition, the sugar factories were permitted to sell 30% more sugar over and above their quota. As such, it was decided that there was no need to grant further additional freesale quotas to any particular sugar factory.

Indian Companies Entering into Foreign Collaboration

3405. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Indian companies which have entered into foreign collaboration for the manufacture of various products during the last three years, the amount of investment by each foreign investor, the products to be marketed and equity allowed in each case; and

(b) the new trade mark adopted by the Indian companies who entered into foreign collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) During the period from 1.1.93 to 31.7.96, 6863 number of foreign collaboration proposals (financial & technical) involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 73810.86 crores have been approved by the Government. The details of such proposals viz., name of Indian company, names and country of foreign collaborator, equity investment involved and item of manufacture/activity are published by Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to Parliament Library.

(b) There is no restriction prohibiting the use of any foreign brand name/ trade

mark on goods for sale within the country.

Submission of Forged Documents in KVIC in Visakhapatnam

3406. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forged documents are routinely submitted to the KVIC office in Visakhapatnam for release of funds to applicants;

(b) whether it is a fact that complaints of this nature have been ignored by KVIC in the last two years;

(c) whether steps will be taken to carefully equire and apprehend the culprits who submitted forged documents and obtained financial assistance from the Visakhapatnam office of KVIC; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to initiate severe action against the officers and applicants/beneficiaries who collaborated in cheating the KVIC for huge sums of money and subsidies?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Projected Growth of Export

3407. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have estimated that export will rise to US $ 90 billion a year by 2002 A.D. on a projected growth of 20 or 20-plus per cent in dollar terms per year;

(b) the details of the justification for such a projection;

(c) whether it is a fact that these projections do not take into account complicating variables such as rupee-dollar exchange; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) (a) and (b) Considering the important role of exports in inproving the balance of trade and sustained export growth at 18-20% in $ terms achieved in recent years, it is envisaged that the 20% dollar growth in exports can be sustained. Arithmetically the export value at 20% annual dollar growth would be around US $ 90 billion by 2002.

(c) and (d) The estimates are in dollar values over the base year export values realised in dollar terms.

Consumer Protection Act

3408. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to certain reports indicating that the basic purpose of the Consumer Protection Act is to statutorily settle consumer grievances within a mandatory period of six months is not being achieved;

(b) if so, the details of difficulties coming in the way of achievement of purpose;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The pendency of cases in Consumer Courts is on account of factors such as inadequate infrastructure, in the fora frequent adjournments etc. To strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts, as well as to reduce pendency of cases in the Consumer, Courts, Central